

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: TAKAHASHI et al.

FILED: July 16, 2003

FOR: BUFFER CIRCUIT, BUFFER TREE, AND SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

DOCKET: NEC NEG-298

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

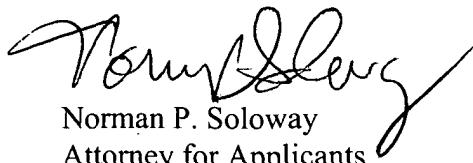
Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including a copy of the reference listed therein, which was considered prior to the initial filing, and is discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over this reference.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and no considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.